

CHAPTEE

XXIV. 1811.

My return to Hamburg — Government Committee established there — Anecdote of the Comte de Chaban— Napoleon's misunderstanding with the Pope — Cardinal Fesch — Convention of a Council — Declaration required from the Bishops — Spain in 1811 — Certainty of war with Russia — Lauriston supersedes Caulaincourt at St. Petersburg—The war in Spain neglected— Troops of all nations at the disposal of Bonaparte — Levy of National Guard — Treaties with Prussia and Austria—Capitulation renewed with Switzerland — Intrigues with Czernischeff — Attacks of my enemies — Memorial to the Emperor — Ogier de la Saussaye and the mysterious box — Removal of the Pope to Fontainebleau — Anecdote of His Holiness and M. Denon — Departure of Napoleon and Maria Louisa for Dresden — Situation of Affairs in Spain and Portugal — Rapp's account of the Emperor's journey to Dantzic — Mutual wish for war on the part of Napoleon and Alexander — Sweden and Turkey—Napoleon's vain attempt to detach Sweden from her alliance with Russia.

As I took the most lively interest in all that concerned the Hanse Towns, my first care on returning to Hamburg was to collect information from the most respectable sources concerning the influential members of the new Government.¹ Davoust was at its head. On his arrival he had established in the Duchy of Mecklenburg, in Swedish Pomerania, and in Stralsund, the capital of that province, military posts and customhouses, and that in a time of profound peace with those countries, and without any previous declaration. The omnipotence of Napoleon, and the terror inspired by the name of Davoust, overcame all obstacles which might have opposed those iniquitous usurpations. The weak were forced to yield to the strong.

¹ Bourrienne took an interest in Hamburg which it is difficult to explain unless he was, as his enemies asserted, engaged in Royalist plots and in underhand business there. In 1813 Davoust complained to the Emperor of his intrigues, and Napoleon replied that Bourrienne had been ordered to cease all correspondence with Hamburg, and declared that he would arrest him if he still wrote there. Even then, 30th June, 1813, Napoleon urged Davoust to try to discover Bourrienne's robberies in order that he might be made to disgorge (*Errata*, tome ii. p. 241).